



November Summary

November saw a mix of successes and continuing challenges. One example was the reopening of the Health Centre in Adé while a deterioration of hygiene was observed in the area following withdrawal of WASH humanitarian partners due to heightened insecurity. Meanwhile, one success was the start of the first round of catch-up immunisations in Am Dam, an area severely affected by conflict earlier on in the year. November was however deeply saddened by a serious and lethal UXO accident which claimed two children's lives, highlighting the ever present threat of unexploded ordnance throughout eastern Chad.

Child Survival and Development

Health (EPI, CPN, IMCI)

UNICEF followed up on activities undertaken as part of the National Immunisation Days (NIDs) organised between 30 October and 1 November. One first effort was a joint WHO-UNICEF mission to Adé, on the Chad-Sudan border, to assess immunisation coverage after the initial NIDs and gather lessons learned to increase coverage in the next round, planned for December. Based on the mission's assessment, new immunisation teams will be formed and contacts with local authorities will be intensified to ensure better access in isolated villages and build up the numbers of children successfully immunised. UNICEF returned to Adé with partners from the Ministry of Public Health to also evaluate and follow-up on activities at the Adé Health Centre. This centre had been closed for four months following the departure of *Médecins Sans Frontières - Holland* due to security reasons, leaving an estimated population of 20,000 with virtually no access to health care. On 16 November however the centre reopened after assignment of a new Health Worker by the Ministry, while local MSF staff rejoined the centre to help ensure basic services. Preventive and curative health care consultations are now available, but for lack of proper cold chain equipment, the centre cannot yet ensure any immunisations services.

Meanwhile, on 13 November UNICEF's health team conducted a first round of catch-up activities under the Expanded Programme on Immunisations (EPI), using advanced mobile strategies in the area of Am Dam, which had seen intense conflict earlier in the year. This regular programme effort - aimed to accelerate EPI coverage before the year's end - was also carried out in the refugee camps and IDP sites in Dar Sila with support from NGO partner COOPI. UNICEF and partners are also planning actively for the next Polio Eradication campaign, scheduled to take place on 4-6 December 2009 throughout the region.

Nutrition

The first three weeks of November saw 52 refugee and IDP children newly admitted for nutritional support provided in Supplemental Feeding Centres, along with 22 in the Ambulatory Feeding Centres and 8 in the Therapeutic Feeding Centres, which handles the most severe cases. This represents a drop compared to figures in October - most notably looking at Severe Acute Malnutrition - which is consistent with a nutritional screening effort conducted this month which showed a slight decline in the overall Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels. This drop should however be nuanced due to population movements in the current harvest season, as the survey could only cover 66% of the targeted population while for lack of resources UNICEF has not been able so far to actively canvass host communities for screening. Efforts nonetheless continue, with the admission also in November of 341 pregnant and breastfeeding women in nutritional supplementation programmes supported by UNICEF in Goz Beida.



A young girl in Goz Beida. © Fabien Lapouge, 2009.

Education

Despite sensitisations led in October for the beginning of the school year - which led to some successes - not all children have yet enrolled, nor is there yet steady attendance. At this time of year, some parents have indeed withdrawn their children from schools to help in the threshing of the millet harvest, or to tend to livestock. This was prevalent across host community schools as well as particularly true in a number of IDP sites, notably in Ganachour. UNICEF therefore continues on a daily basis to advocate for access to education for all children, especially girls. Still, this new school year started on a positive trend, with back-to-school numbers showing a net increase in the number of children in schools this year, with 13,362 registered in the district in October 2009, compared to 12,283 at the same time last year.



At the same time, UNICEF has continued distribution of learning and teaching materials in November, with 100 school blackboards along with 50 mats for the schools in the refugee camps in Djabal and Goz Amir. UNICEF and partners also supported displaced parents in an effort to rehabilitate the preschool in Gassiré B. At the same time, UNICEF distributed 50 tarpaulins for maintenance and rehabilitation of school structures and hangars throughout the sites.



Teachers received new blackboards for the schools in the Goz Beida district. © Fabien Lapouge, 2009.

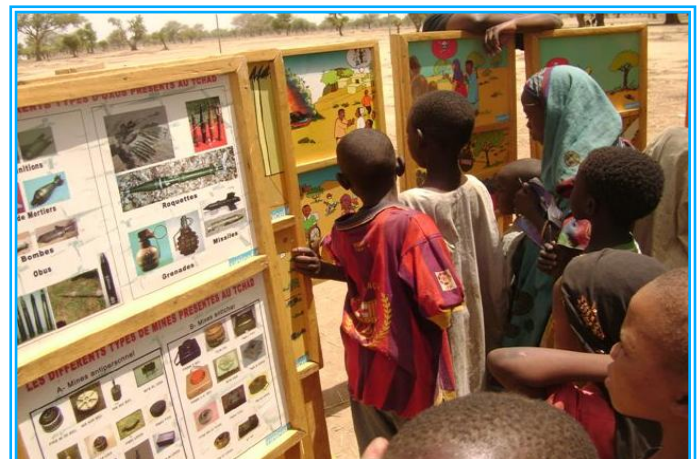
Finally, in November partners in the Education Cluster met on two occasions to discuss the quarterly school workplan and the challenges ahead. One of the main challenges identified is the absence so far of a school feeding programme for children. WFP is searching actively for potential partners in this area. A second challenge has been low levels of hygiene and harmful sanitation practices in some of the schools, including bad management of school latrines. UNICEF and partners in the Education Cluster thus agreed to scale up sensitisation efforts in schools in coordination with UNICEF's Water and Sanitation team and WASH Cluster partners.

Child Protection

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) on 20 November, UNICEF and its partners organised a full day of discussions and exchanges on the topic of child rights, bringing together local and traditional authorities, community members, youth and children in the IDP sites in Goz Beida. A total 369 people took part in lively discussion groups that tackled the different protection challenges faced by children in eastern Chad, while UNICEF and NGO partners raised awareness on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Meanwhile, with children now in schools in the morning, UNICEF's Child Protection programme focuses on providing them with opportunities for further development throughout the afternoons of the week, with activities being held in the network of Child Friendly Spaces established in Koloma, Koubigou, Gassiré, Gouroukoun, Sanour and Ganachour. In November, a total 889 children - over 130 more than in the previous month - attended the Child Friendly Spaces and took part in a wide array of recreational activities including traditional games and dances, story-telling sessions, music, and sports. Specific activities also take place for women and mothers who often come along with their children. This month, 243 women came to the different Child Friendly Spaces for small scale training activities including knitting and sewing and food processing. These gatherings are also an opportunity for them to discuss current challenges and for sensitisation against harmful practices affecting them and their children.

Unfortunately, November saw a new fatal accident involving unexploded ordnance (UXOs). On a single incident which occurred on 10 November, two children lost their lives, while a further three were wounded in an UXO explosion. Such incidents all too prevalent in eastern Chad, and almost systematically involve children. So far in 2009, there have been three of these accidents involving UXOs and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) - leading to loss of lives, limbs and livelihoods, with a total 8 deaths, all of them children. UNICEF continues actively to work on the preventive side to avoid such accidents, and in November new focus group discussion initiatives on UXO/ERWs were launched, based on a household-grouping approach designed to canvass the entire population, assess the level of knowledge in the community about mine risks, and increase awareness, particularly for children and parents.



Children study posters developed by UNICEF to highlight the risks of UXOs and ERWs in a sensitisation organised by UNICEF partner INTERSOS in Goz Beida © UNICEF, 2009.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water Supply and Sanitation

Throughout November the IDP sites in Sanour and Ganachour continued suffering from reduced access to water supply, which remains under internationally prescribed SPHERE standards, while in other sites access varied between 11 litres per day per person in Koubigou to 15 in Kerfi. Efforts to secure access to safe drinking water for all communities thus remain critical, notably access to water in and around schools. In this regard, the school in Gouroukoun B was identified this month as suffering from a particular shortage, leading UNICEF and NGO partner Oxfam GB to prioritise efforts to support the school.

As outlined in previous reports, Oxfam GB has also continued its effort to promote local appropriation of sustainable community-driven technologies for water points and access to water, and has completed the transfer from motorised water-pumps to locally managed handpumps throughout the site in Gouroukoun. At the same time, Oxfam GB is leading the same effort in Koubigou, where the motorised pumps are still in service while a sufficient number of alternate boreholes and handpumps are being drilled and installed.

Meanwhile, despite the withdrawal by *Solidarités* in Adé due to heightened insecurity, water supply remains stable (between 14 to 16 litres per day per person), as the seven Vergnet pumps and the water tower continue to be operational. Pre-positioning of spare parts and the training of local artisans on pump maintenance and reparations has so far ensured no breakdown in the water supply system. Reduced presence in the area and continual challenges of access due to insecurity however remains a cause for concern in this border area between Chad and Sudan.

Sanitation efforts have also continued in November, with sensitisation led within communities to encourage renewal and maintenance of family latrines. As a result of this effort, the availability and ratio of persons per latrine increased compared to October, and November saw a total 100 new latrines being built across the different IDP sites in the area. As a result, the overall and average ratio reaches 23 persons per latrine. Still, there remains a gap of approximately 1,000 latrines that needs to be bridged to recover the level attained before the rainy season, which recently caused many latrines to collapse and represents a yearly and cyclical challenge to sustainable access to safe sanitation.

Hygiene Promotion

While *Solidarités'* withdrawal from Adé due to serious security reasons has not yet affected the level of water supply access, an assessment mission conducted by UNICEF in November however revealed that the hygiene situation had deteriorated, mainly because *Solidarités'* staff and hygiene promoters were no longer able to conduct activities in the area. Alternate approaches are therefore needed to stem this deteriorating trend and consolidate the results achieved thanks to *Solidarités'* efforts so far.

Despite the challenges in Adé, the WASH Cluster has nevertheless maintained efforts in all other areas towards hygiene promotion, including through continuing and regular distributions of soap across different IDP communities. A total 58,831 bars of soap were distributed this month in Goz Beida and in Kerfi, with support from NGO partner World Concern. A further 76,000 bars of soap were also transported to Koukou Angarana for distribution by Intermon Oxfam in the different IDP and refugee sites in Aradib, Habilé and Goz Amir. Distributions by Intermon Oxfam will be bundled with sensitisation to raise and maintain awareness of best hygiene practices. Overall, throughout the area of Goz Beida, UNICEF and its partners in the WASH Cluster work to support and improve the living conditions of over 60,000 IDPs.



Handwashing with soap demonstrations held by a women's group in Goz Beida during Global Handwashing Day on 15 October.
© UNICEF/L.Mokrani, 2009.

[Many thanks to Fabien Lapouge, from the NGO JRS - partnered with UNICEF in Education - for generously contributing some of his pictures]

For more information please contact
Cifora Monier, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Chad
cmonier@unicef.org